

Rev. J. R. Barbour

Oxford, Jan. 8. 1842.

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Rev. A. A. Phelps
dear Dear Brother }

I have been thinking much in regard to our state convention next month. Is it best to hold one upon our old associates, or take new ones? Mr. Walswood is, I suppose, a fair sort of man, not distinguished especially in his profession as a lawyer. If I rightly understood the case, he is a man that will do ^{us} no discredit; but, on the other hand, how can we not in our ranks a stranger man? One that has been more distinguished in his profession, either as a practical man like Wm. Jackson, or in one of the learned professions, would carry more influence on our ticket.

I passed a night with Mr. J. lately. He is now fully & decidedly clear on the point of political action. So far as that consideration is concerned I am persuaded he would not again decline a nomination. though I did not ask any questions ^{directly} on the subject. I learned however that the main reason that led him to decline was one that still exists at least in some force. Perhaps he would surmount it, I stand. If so surely we could not do better than to put him

up.

Yet I have been thinking of another man, viz Mr Pierpont. What wonder you say to that? In his present situation would he not like to be put ^{help} in nomination? Would not such a measure, him on in his noble controversy with the Boston runners? Would not his friends in B. especially Francis J. and others of the old organization be pleased with it? Would not temperance men throughout the state be pleased with it? He is a good fellow we all know, & would fill the great chair as completely as any man in ~~the~~ state, not excepting honest John even.

There is yet another man who would carry great influence on the ticket & that is our quaker part. I should admire to see him on the ticket if his health, & other circumstances of which I cannot judge would seem to favor.

As to Lieutenant Governor I do not know that we should gain anything by a change. Yet John Pierpont Gov. & Wm. Jackson Lin. Gov would make a strange team.

I throw out these hints, though I suppose the brethren in B. are well awake thinking & planning what is best. I hope to ~~have~~ ^{see} a good delegation from all parts of the state at the

commutation - ^{me} will send a good one from our
town. The cause is arranged here. This year we
take 15 or 16 Emancipators & Free Announcements. - last
year only 4 or 5.

Truly Yours
J. W. Barham

04/Jan/11

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Rev. A. A. Phelps
Boston